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Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1963

WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B.,B.S.,D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.A. NORMAN, M.A.P.H.I.

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Water Committee and Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with water supplies and swimming baths.

All members of the Council sit on all Committees.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Urban District Council of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1963.

This year the emphasis in public health has been the enforcement of 100% meat inspection and stamping with the mark of an individually recognisable inspector. This has caused no problem to this Council, since all meat is brought into the district and the question is merely that of observing the presence of a recognisable stamp mark.

Similarly, there is only a minor task in dealing with other foodstuffs. Contamination is largely prevented nowadays by pre-packing and more trouble is caused by excess wrapping than insufficient. The growing trend to home-warming and cooking by other than open fires reduces the facility of burning all forms of refuse, which there-upon goes into the dustbin without any absorptive ashes and by the end of a week can be a pretty putrid mess. The importance of maintaining a weekly collection, especially in Summer, needs an emphasis.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act will come into effect in 1964 with the intention of providing for office and similar workers, similar protection to that given by the Factories Acts for factory workers. The occupiers of all the types of premises specified are required to register them with the authority which thereafter will have to satisfy themselves upon the size, lighting, heating, and sanitary facilities, together with provision of suitable seats where the work can be done sitting down: the emphasis being upon the suitability of the seats. The implementation of this act may contribute quite considerably to the work of your Public Health Inspector.

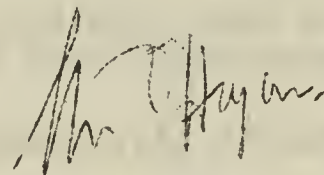
Street Lighting rarely calls for comment, but as the Council are aware, it is a hardy perennial, although it does not flourish when too overgrown by trees. This is the problem - autumn means falling leaves and damp pavements on which the elderly with any tendency to shuffling gait are particularly liable to falls. Yet it is the trees that mark Woodhall apart as a sheltered spot in a wind-swept County and very serious thought would be required before any serious interference with the trees could be allowed. Nevertheless, in the interests of safety, the Councils' investigations into methods of improving street lighting must be warmly welcomed. In the same way the improvement of street-surfaces, conducive to the safety particularly of the elderly, may be regarded as an extension of Public Health works.

The maintenance and improvement of the Park also has a bearing on health - obviously so far the swimmers and sunbathers, but not necessarily less for those who come just for a 'day out' to break the monotony of their lives, and the young mothers who are glad to have a place to take the toddlers where they can see children of other families on neutral ground and so begin the first social approaches.

Control of the Councils Water Undertaking was taken over by the newly formed East Lincolnshire Water Board in April, 1964, after a protracted struggle. It is naive to suppose that a new major authority will deal with all its functions, especially minor ones, to everybody's satisfaction immediately.

I cannot conclude these introductory remarks without, as usual acknowledging with gratitude the help of the Members, Officers and Staff of the Council.

I remain, Sirs,
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area of Urban District :	1874 acres
Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population :	2240
Density of Population:	1.14 persons per acre
Number of Inhabited Swellings:	671

VITAL STATISTICS

Comparability Factors	Births 1.40	Deaths 0.59
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BIRTHS

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
			M F
Live Births	37	32	27 18
Rate per 1000 population	17.9	14.2	20.1
Standardized birth rate		16.4	28.1
Illegitimate live births % total	2.7	6.25	4.4
(National birth rate 18.2)			
<u>Still Births</u>	1	0	0
Rate per 100 total live and still births	2.7	0	0
Total live and still births	38	32	43
<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under 1 year)	2	2	0
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>			
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	54	62.5	0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	55	66.6	0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	0	0

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
(deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births)	62.5	0

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under one week per 1000 total live births)	62.5	0
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Perinatal Mortality Rate

(stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	62.5	0
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Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	0	0
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	0	0

DEATHS

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
Male	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>
Female	<u>29</u>	<u>35</u>
	<u>46</u>	<u>54</u>
Deaths per 1000 population	20.4	24.1
Standardized Death Rate per 1000	13.8	14.2
National (England and Wales Death Rate) per 1000	11.9	12.2

Causes of Death as shewn in the Registrar General's Short List

Short
List

<u>No.</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	0	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	1	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	2	4
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	3	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	3	4	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1
20.	Other heart diseases	1	11	12
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	5	6
22.	Influenza	0	2	2
23.	Pneumonia	1	2	3
24.	Bronchitis	0	0	0
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	3	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	1	0	1
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
		19	35	54

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification of infectious diseases during the year as follows :-

Measles	40
Dysentery	2
Scarletina	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Virus Pneumonia	1
	<u>45</u>

Last year I commented upon the panic rise in Smallpox Vaccinations. This year I must explain the reasons underlying the very low incidence of primary vaccinations.

This is entirely intentional; it has been shown recently that the risk of severe reaction to vaccination is considerably less in the second year of life, and in all cases where early vaccination is not essential, routine vaccination is being delayed.

It is to be expected that the 1964 figures will show a return to normal.

Table of Immunization and births in previous years

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Births in previous Year	21	28	38	30	37	32
Protected against Whooping Cough	11	28	40	28	26	42
Diphtheria	10	31	41	29	26	43
Tetanus	0	25	56	29	30	45
Smallpox	25	17	24	34	73	6
Smallpox re-vaccinations	11	3	14	5	57	14
Diphtheria Boosters alone	24	18	24	15	20	21

The National Health Service

The Urban District is well served by General Practitioners but public transport to the Hospitals is very poor - the railway to Boston has been closed, there is neither bus nor train to Louth and the train service to Lincoln appears threatened. This throws an additional burden on the Ambulance Service which is called upon additionally to bring a considerable number of rheumatic patients to the Spa for treatment.

National Assistance Act 1948 Section 47

No action was taken under this Section. In my experience in other districts, it is very rarely that this section is of value, although in slum districts of large urban areas it might be used.

Water Supply

The only criticism I have of the supply is that which is general throughout the county - deficient fluoride content.

Although the County Council has requested the Water Board to remedy this, and the Woodhall supply is a self-contained entity to which a suitable plant could be fitted, it is unlikely that action will be taken until after the larger supplies have been dealt with. This is the natural order of priorities. Had the Council still been in control of the Water Undertaking I have little doubt that they would have seen their decisions promptly implemented.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

There has been no significant change.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The method of weekly emptying of dustbins is almost universal and is amenable to criticism only on the amount of dust when bins are emptied into the wagon and the double walk to return the bin. Paper sacks have been tried with some success, particular, in new housing estates where no solid fuel heating is used, and hence there is no problem of hot ash, but instead, a putrid collection of vegetable and animal remains with an insect population depending on the fit of the bin lid. Fly breeding is not a problem so long as weekly collection is maintained.

The Swimming Pool

The Summer of 1963 was not a very propitious one and the new equipment associated with the enlarged pool was never put really to the test. Comparator estimation of chlorine residue was satisfactory.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING:

Total number of dwelling-houses and flats in district	671
Total number of houses erected during the year :-	
(1) By local authority	-
(2) By other local authorities	-
(3) By other bodies or persons	7
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 - 1957 :-	
(1) Number of certificates of disrepair issued	-
Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	25
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	49
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	12
(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	-
(2) Proceedings under Housing Acts	-
(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts :-	
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made (individual unfit houses only)	-
(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (individual unfit houses only)	-
(c) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	-
(d) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	-
(e) Number of dwelling houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	-
(f) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof	-
(g) Total number of dwelling houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
(h) Total number of dwelling houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
(i) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	2

Housing Acts - Overcrowding

(a)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	7
(b)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	1
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	7

Housing Acts, 1949 - 59

Number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been received - Standard	4
- Discretionary	1
Number of dwellings subject to grant - Standard	4
- Discretionary	1
Number of houses owned by Local authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry	0

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

Public Health Act, 1936

Number of site licences	2
Number of individual licences	1
Total number of moveable dwellings permitted under above licences	13
Number of inspections during the year - sites	21
- dwellings	3
Number of contraventions remedied	2
Number of sites exempt from licence	-
Number of moveable dwellings thereon	-

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

Number in district	2
Number of inspections	4
Number of contraventions	0
Defects remedied	0

Ice Cream

Number of manufacturers on register	2
Number of premises licensed for sale of ice cream	9
Number of inspection of premises made	12
Number of contraventions found	-
Contraventions remedied	-
Number of samples taken - Grade I	-
- Grade II	-

Meat Products

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
Number of inspections made	2
Number of contraventions found	0
Contraventions remedied	0

Other Food Premises

Number of other food premises (i.e. excluding bakehouses, and premises registered for manufacture of ice cream and meat products)	27
Number of inspections made	32
Number of contraventions found	3
Contraventions remedied	2

Slaughterhouses

Number licensed - abattoir type	0
- Private individual	0
Number operated by local authority	0

UN SOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part	0
Other condemned foods	0
Method of disposal - incineration	

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	1
Number of houses with pail closets in district	2
Number of houses with water closets in district	665
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	0
Do Council operate pail closet emptying service?	No

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed, etc.	2
Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	0
Do Council operate cesspool/septic tank emptying service?	No

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made for new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements improved :-	-
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Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved :-	-
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Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons :-	No
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WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic

Number of houses supplied from public mains	
- in house	670
- in standpipe/outside tap	2
Number of houses supplied from private sources	0
New sources of supply and location	0
Number of public supplies closed	0
Any part of district requiring public supply or replacement of public supply for public health reasons	No
Number of samples taken for chemical examination.	0
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination :-	
Satisfactory	5
Unsatisfactory	0

Swimming and Paddling Pools

	Swimming Pools	Paddling Pools
Number in operation	1	1
Number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	1	1
Number of samples of water taken for chemical examination	0	0
Number of samples for bacteriological examination	0	0

GENERAL

Offensive Trades

Number of premises in district	0
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Knackers Yards

Number licensed	0
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Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected	9
Contraventions remedied	0

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Rooms or premises disinfected (a) infectious diseases other than tuberculosis	0
(b) tuberculosis	0
Number of premises subject to disinfestation	0

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected	703
Frequency of collection	7 - 9 days
Method of disposal	controlled tipping
Is this satisfactory?	Yes
Number of tips	1
Is collection by Local Authority or contract?	L.A.

Details of nuisances abated

	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Refuse	6	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	12	-
Drainage	7	-
Poultry and animals	0	-
Dangerous premises	0	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	4	-
Total	29	

Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of rodent operatives employed	1 part time
Number of premises treated - dwelling houses	42
- other premises	33
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district?	No
Service covers domestic, business and agricultural premises	

Atmospheric Pollution

Number of visits	0
Number of nuisances found	0
Number of nuisances abated	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act - inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	1	3	0	0
2. factories not included in (1) in which sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority	9	17	0	0
3. other premises in which sec 7 is enforced by the local authority	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	20	0	0

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

